CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA
REGULAR MEETING

AUGUST 16, 2005

INVOCATION:
Reverend Cliff Sharp of Unity Chapel of Light gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:
Councilmember Orach led the pledge of allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mayor Lavagnino called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:
MEMBERS PRESENT
Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
City Manager Ness, Assistant City Manager Haydon, City Attorney Trujillo, Police Chief Macagni, Director of Administrative Services Snodgrass, Director of Community Development Lindsey, Fire Chief Ortiz, Director of Recreation and Parks Posada, Director of Public Works Karp, Solid Waste/Utilities Engineer Zhao, and Chief Deputy City Clerk Perez.

COMMENDATION FOR REY FLORES
Mayor Lavagnino read a proclamation commending Rey Flores for his selfless action in responding to a structure fire on Sunday, June 26, 2005, at 310 W. Sunset, across the street from his home, and assisting a wheelchair-bound neighbor out of her burning home, and presented the proclamation to him.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH
Mayor Lavagnino presented a gift to Becky Riddering for her dedication and enthusiasm in working with eight girls from a group home to attend the City's Career Camp and Jobs-to-Career programs and for encouraging local teens to participate in the City's youth employment services.

PUBLIC COMMENT
William Wagener talked about what Michael Jackson had done for the community and requested the City Council consider naming a City park after Michael Joe Jackson. He recommended the Council increase the salary for the elected City Treasurer and City Clerk. He also commented on the lack of a second editing bay at the Media Center.

Nicholas Andersen spoke regarding code violations at the Meridian Apartment complex and asked for a written response to his questions from City Attorney Trujillo.
Mayor Lavagnino indicated he had received numerous questions regarding the recent increase in graffiti in the City and asked Police Chief Macagni to address the matter.

Police Chief Macagni explained that there had been a spike in the amount of graffiti recently which was usual during the summer months when school is out. This year there seemed to be more graffiti than usual. The Police Department was working with the Recreation and Parks Department to eradicate the graffiti. He asked the public to contact the Police Department if they witnessed anyone tagging public or private property.

CONSENT CALENDAR
Councilmember Trujillo requested Item 3E be pulled for comment. Councilmember Patino requested Items 3F and 3I be pulled for comment. Councilmember Mariscal also requested Item 3F be pulled for comment.

Item 3E – Declaring Community Events under the Health and Safety Code
Councilmember Trujillo commented that fundraising barbecues used to be held on Saturday and Sunday only, but now some were starting as early as Wednesday. Some also appear to have permanent facilities. He asked if the resolution would address those issues.

Assistant City Manager Haydon explained that the City was trying to limit fundraising events such as barbecues to two days per weekend, either Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday.

Item 3F – Amendment to Military Leave of Absence Policy
Councilmember Patino stated she wanted people to know that the City Council was amending the Military Leave Policy to provide 180 days of salary continuation and health benefits to employees called to active duty. The City Council supports the military and employees who serve.

Councilmember Mariscal agreed and encouraged private businesses who have the resources to do the same thing and provide salary continuation beyond the required 30 days for their employees who are called to active duty.

Item 3I – Entertainment License
Councilmember Patino commented that in the Police Department memo it recommended that a security guard be provided during karaoke; however, she did not see that listed as a condition of approval. She asked how that would be addressed.

Chief Deputy City Clerk Perez explained that both the Police Department memo and the Fire Department memo would be attached to the Entertainment License as conditions of approval.

Councilmember Trujillo indicated he would be abstaining from voting on the Minutes of the August 8, 2005, Special City Council meeting as he was absent from that meeting.

Consent Calendar Items A through K were approved with the indicated action on motion by Councilmember Orach, seconded by Councilmember Patino, and carried on the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Mariscal, Orach, Patino, Trujillo, and Mayor Lavagnino
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	None
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember Trujillo (Minutes of August 8, 2005, Special Meeting only)

A. ORDINANCES
The reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions was waived. Ordinances on the Consent Calendar are adopted by the same vote cast at the first reading unless City Council indicates otherwise.

B. MINUTES
The Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 2, 2005, and the Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting of August 8, 2005, were approved as submitted.

C. RELEASE OF BOND
Certain public improvements were accepted as complete and a Faithful Performance Bond posted in connection with Coyway, Tract 5796, in the amount of $1,611.20 for the installation of street and easement trees was authorized for release.

D. RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE CHANGES
Resolution No. 2005-127 was adopted approving amendments to the City-wide Records Retention Schedule.

Resolution No. 2005-127 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING REVISIONS TO THE CITY-WIDE RECORDS RETENTION SCHEDULE.

E. DECLARING COMMUNITY EVENTS
Resolution No. 2005-128 was adopted declaring community fundraising barbecues and Farmer's Market to be community events under the Health and Safety Code.

Resolution No. 2005-128 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING COMMUNITY EVENTS PURSUANT TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 113750.1.

F. MILITARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE
Resolution No. 2005-129 was adopted amending City Administrative Memo (CAM) 98-05 "Military Leave of Absence Policy", thereby providing for an additional 180 days of salary continuation and health benefits for those employees called to active military duty.

Resolution No. 2005-129 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE CITY'S MILITARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY.

G. WARRANTS
Warrant Nos. 121787 to 122075 in the amount of $1,259,559.38 were ordered ratified subject to having been certified as being in conformity with the budget and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services. Warrants No. 121471, 121673, 121826 and 121840 were cancelled.

H. PAYROLL
Payment of payroll was ordered ratified subject to having been certified by the proper Department Heads as shown on records on file in the Administrative Services Department and having been approved for payment by the Director of Administrative Services.

I. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE
An Entertainment License was approved with conditions for Grand China at 800 S. Broadway, Suite #105, to allow a disk jockey and karaoke on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

J. GROWTH MITIGATION ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT
The Growth Mitigation Annual Compliance Report for 2004 was received and filed.

K. AWARD OF BID
Resolution No. 2005-130 was adopted awarding the bid and approving a contract with Graham Contractors, Inc. for Street Maintenance (Chip Seal) – 2005, Bid No. 2005/14, in the amount of $784,203.64.

Resolution No. 2005-130 adopted. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH GRAHAM CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR STREET MAINTENANCE (CHIP SEAL) – 2005, BID NO. 2005/14.

Mayor Lavagnino moved the appointments to the All-America City Committee and the Block Grants Advisory Committee forward to this time.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES
Councilmember Mariscal nominated Mauricio Cifuentes to fill the unexpired term on the All-America City Committee as the youth representative.

On motion by Councilmember Mariscal, seconded by Orach, and carried unanimously, Mauricio Cifuentes was appointed to the All-America City Committee for the unexpired term ending in January 2007.

Mayor Lavagnino nominated Robert Dickerson to fill the vacant seat on the Block Grants Advisory Committee.

On motion by Mayor Lavagnino, seconded by Mariscal, and carried unanimously, Robert Dickerson was appointed to the Block Grants Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending in July 2008.

YEAR-END REPORT BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Mr. Bob Hatch, President/CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau introduced the members of the Board of Directors and the Economic Development Commission who were present. He also introduced Gina Keough, the new manager of the Visitor and Convention Bureau (VCB).

Gina Keough presented the 2004-05 Year-end Report and the 2005-06 Market Plan and Budget. The Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau had a very busy year due in part to the attention the Santa Maria Valley received from the movie *Sideways* and the Michael Jackson trial. Local tourism continued to grow thanks to a rebounding economy, strong marketing and improved customer service. Transient occupancy tax totaled more than $2.19 million, a gain of six percent over last year. To enhance and promote the visibility of the Santa Maria Valley, the Bureau remained an active member in the Central Coast Tourism Council, Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International, International Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus, and the Central Coast Agritourism Council. With the help of the VCB, in 2004-05 the Santa Maria Valley was featured on the Food Network Channel in "Roker on the Road," a segment with local barbecue master Billy Ruis, proprietor of Cowboy Caterin' in Los Alamos. In June, the Speed Channel's *American Thunder* aired coverage of Santa Maria's All American Motorcycle Madness event at the Santa Maria Fairpark.

Additionally, over 12,000 visitor guides were distributed. This *Community & Destination Guide* was enlarged to include maps of the city and local attractions. Community Outreach efforts were increased by providing local businesses and attractions with presentation kits from the Bureau featuring useful information on the Santa Maria Valley to be used as a training tool for frontline staff. The Bureau continued to market the Santa Maria Valley through print advertising and received over 4,000 responses as a result of the 2004-05 advertising campaign. During the Michael Jackson trial, the Bureau provided availability/pricing information on hotels, apartments and rental homes to visiting press agents and supplied local hoteliers with more than 1,000 press kits and souvenir items for the media. The Chamber of Commerce and the City hosted a hospitality reception for the media representatives covering the Michael Jackson trial. Bureau representatives also attended several travel shows during the year including Meeting Quest, the Los Angeles Times Travel Show and the Sunset Celebrations Weekend 2005.

Councilmember Orach encouraged people to stop by the Chamber of Commerce office and see how much information they have on things to do in the area and places to see.

Councilmember Mariscal thanked Gina Keough for stepping into the manager position immediately before the Chamber and the City hosted the press event for the media covering the Michael Jackson trial. He said the bang for the buck the City got from the Visitor and Convention Bureau was phenomenal.

Mayor Lavagnino stated he would put the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce up against any other Chamber of Commerce in the State. The City was getting more visitors to the area. It is exciting to see how the City had evolved into a really great community.

Councilmember Orach reminded everyone to attend the Autumn Grapes and Grains Festival. It will be held on October 1, 2005, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center.

The Council thanked Gina Keough for her report and received and filed the report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Bob Hatch, President/CEO of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce, presented the first Semi-Annual Report for the period of January 1, 2005, through June 30, 2005. The Commission is underway in implementing the program of work identified in its proposal to the City. Each and every point identified in Phase One has been accomplished. During the first half of 2005, the Economic Development Commission has built relationships with the City and with commercial brokers in the area. To improve advertising, the Commission placed ads in the Global Corporate Expansion Magazine, Expansion Management Magazine, National Association of Manufacturers Directory, and the Santa Maria Sun. The Commission communicated with or offered direct assistance to the following companies: International Software Trading, who will begin operations in Santa Maria in late fall; Fusion Marketing, who has identified a site and is in negotiations with the building owner; CafeFX; PC Mechanical; Whitecap Stores; and American Building Automation. The Commission has also pledged its support for the continuing development of the research park located on Santa Maria Public Airport District property. In the near future, members of the Commission will be speaking to local groups on economic development related topics. Work has begun on the creation of a baseline from which to identify Santa Maria's economic development potential. The data reviewed will highlight key resources available in the City and point out the economic conditions of the surrounding communities.

Mr. Hatch thanked the City Council and City staff for their efforts in working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Commission and for being a business-friendly City.

Mayor Lavagnino thanked Mr. Hatch for working tirelessly with the International Software Trading company representatives and making the contacts necessary for them to obtain the information they needed to make a decision to locate in Santa Maria. He said since the Chamber of Commerce took over the economic development contract in January, the City Council and City staff feel they were now part of the team with the Economic Development Commission. He thanked the Commission and Mr. Hatch and said he did not think there was any problem the team could not solve.

Councilmember Trujillo indicated that the City needed to provide more upscale executive housing for the executives of these companies that would be moving into the area. He commended Mr. Hatch and his staff and the Commission for their hard work.

Councilmember Orach talked about the incubator project and the Downtown Specific Plan and thanked Mr. Hatch and the Chamber and Commission for taking an active role in both projects.

Councilmember Patino asked what the Foreign Trade Zone was and how it benefited businesses.

Mr. Hatch explained that the Airport area had been designated a Foreign Trade Zone for several years, but so far they had had no businesses take advantage of it. The Foreign Trade Zone provided a deferred tax benefit to businesses until the products are ready to be shipped.

Councilmember Mariscal thanked the Economic Development Commission and indicated that Commission members did not get any compensation for what they do. He said he appreciated the Chamber of Commerce agreeing to provide oversight to the new Business Revolving Loan fund and thanked the Council for supporting his idea. He said he was very proud of the fact that the City Council was willing to help businesses expand or locate in the community. He was also encouraged that the Chamber of Commerce and Commission was working with the Airport District. The Airport is a diamond in the rough and would make Santa Maria the place for economic development.

The Council thanked Mr. Hatch for his report and received and filed the report.

REPORT BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager Ness reported on items for the September 6, 2005, City Council meeting including a public hearing for the La Ventana tentative tract map and a follow-up ordinance designating Community Events.

ORAL REPORTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councilmember Trujillo indicated he had been working with the Friends of the Library who were trying to raise $500,000 for books and equipment for the new library. He encouraged everyone in Santa Maria to send just $5.00 to the Friends of the Library to help them reach their goal.

Councilmember Orach reported on the dedication of River Oaks Park and thanked Mrs. Burke's third grade class from Taylor Elementary School for singing at the event. The school was going to help maintain and manage that park. He said it was a beautiful park and encouraged everyone to stop by and see the City's latest park. He also talked about the All-America City Committee's desire to work with CalTrans on the Gateway Monument Program. The City could submit renderings and an application to get funding to put a monument out on Highway 101. He talked about a Letter to the Editor from Don Ward regarding State water. Mr. Ward does not live in Santa Maria and his comments were totally off base.

Councilmember Patino reported on the Flag Day Ceremony in front of City Hall. It was a very nice ceremony and the comments were very positive. The River Oaks Park is a very nice park. Yesterday, the Board of Supervisors met on the Strategic Scan. They think that Santa Maria is the real engine in the County now.

Councilmember Mariscal thanked the Elks Club for allowing the Kiwanis for Kids Foundation to put on the 12th annual fundraiser for Find A Cure for FOP. This year the City has raised cumulatively over $1 million. That is a testament to the people of Santa Maria. He also reported on the Annual Installation Dinner for the Chamber of Commerce where his friend, John Everett, was sworn in as this year's Chairman. The Chamber of Commerce also honored three individuals: Jim Glines as Citizen of the Year; Art Montandon received the Bob Grogan Award; and the Business of the Year Award went to Union Asphalt. All three were very deserving. On September 17, 2005, the Noon-Time Kiwanis Club will be helping the Friends of the Library with their annual barbecue at the Maldonado Community Youth Center. A few days ago the scores for the schools came out. He said he was very proud of the school systems in the Santa Maria Valley. The dedication of the employees of the Santa Maria Bonita School District and their continued increase in scores is something that is enviable. He congratulated the employees of both school districts for the wonderful job they do. Santa Maria High School has continually graduated smarter and smarter students. He congratulated David Sanchez who is about to leave to attend MIT. He graduated from Santa Maria High School with a 4.0 gpa and was accepted to MIT and CalTech. That is an accomplishment. The community is building great people for the future.

Mayor Lavagnino stated he was watching the Strategic Scan on television and thought "what was the Grand Jury thinking about?" Santa Maria is not the city the Grand Jury should be checking on. Santa Barbara is going down the tubes, Goleta is already down the tubes. The Grand Jury was picking on the only city that is doing anything. These cities are not serving their communities well. They are not building so their children can live in their own city. He talked about an article in the Santa Barbara News Press regarding the City of Santa Barbara looking at a living wage of $15.40 an hour. He asked what that would do to the "mom and pop" businesses in Santa Barbara. He thanked everyone who participated in the Flag Pole Ceremony. He commended Director of Recreation and Parks for River Oaks Park. He said a lot of cities don't have a lot of money to build infrastructure, but Santa Maria was building new fire stations, a new library, and new parks.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the City Council at this time, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by order of Mayor Lavagnino.

APPROVED

September 6, 2005
Date

Patricia Adkins
Chief Deputy City Clerk of the City of Santa Maria and ex officio Clerk of the City Council

ATTEST: Patricia Adkins
Chief Deputy City Clerk

S.S. Lavagnino
Mayor of the City of Santa Maria